



General Assembly

February Session, 2006

Amendment

LCO No. 4138

SB0054604138SR0

Offered by:
SEN. FASANO, 34th Dist.

To: Senate Bill No. 546

File No. 236

Cal. No. 204

***"AN ACT AUTHORIZING MUNICIPALITIES TO ABATE TAXES ON
OPEN SPACE LAND."***

1 After the last section, add the following and renumber sections and
2 internal references accordingly:

3 "Sec. 501. (NEW) (*Effective October 1, 2006*) (a) The Commissioner of
4 Economic and Community Development, upon request of a
5 municipality, shall designate a nutmeg zone pilot program in an area
6 of such municipality. To be eligible for the pilot program a
7 municipality shall have (1) a population of more than twenty-five
8 thousand but less than fifty thousand, (2) correctional facilities, and (3)
9 at least one million square feet used for growing bedding plants,
10 bounded by a portion of railroad tracks and a river. Any municipality
11 may apply for such pilot program notwithstanding the percentage of
12 families in the municipality with incomes at or below federal poverty
13 levels.

14 (b) The amount of property taxes due under chapter 203 of the
15 general statutes for a facility that is acquired, constructed, substantially

16 renovated or expanded in a nutmeg zone designated under subsection
17 (a) or (c) of this section, on or after the effective date of this section,
18 shall be reduced by ten per cent in each of the five full assessment
19 years following the assessment year in which the acquisition,
20 construction, renovation or expansion of the facility is completed. The
21 state, acting by and in the discretion of the Commissioner of Economic
22 and Community Development, shall enter into a contract with the
23 municipality in which the nutmeg zone is located to make payments in
24 lieu of taxes to the municipality in an amount equal to ten per cent of
25 the amount that would have been due except for the provisions of this
26 section. Such payments shall be made annually for the five assessment
27 years that the taxes due for the facility are reduced.

28 (c) Any municipality may request the commissioner to designate a
29 nutmeg zone in such municipality, provided the legislative body of the
30 municipality has adopted an ordinance that (1) identifies a specific
31 geographic area of the municipality as such zone, and (2) establishes
32 criteria for establishment of the zone. The provisions of subsection (b)
33 of this section shall apply to any such additional nutmeg zone
34 designated by the commissioner. Any municipality applying for the
35 designation shall not be required to meet the criteria of subsection (a)
36 of this section."